



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WILMINGTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS

P. O. BOX 1890
WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28402-1890

IN REPLY REFER TO

April 24, 2008

Environmental Resources Section

Dear Sir or Madam:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, will host three public workshops to ask opinions from interested individuals concerning a plan to make temporary adjustments in the operation of the John H. Kerr Reservoir. We are holding these public listening sessions because we are eager to hear the opinions of individuals who could be affected by this proposed operation. If you are a farmer, property owner, or otherwise concerned individual who might be affected by a change in John H. Kerr operations, we really want to hear from you.

The changes are being considered to improve conditions for the bottomland hardwood forests ecosystem on the lower Roanoke River downstream of the Kerr/Gaston/Roanoke Rapids systems of dams while continuing other services such as flood risk management and hydropower. A plan being considered involves larger, faster releases of flood waters during the growing season to minimize impacts to new and current vegetative growth in the bottomland hardwoods. This proposal would raise John H. Kerr flood releases from 20,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) to up to 35,000 cfs during the growing season, thus moving flood water more quickly through the lower Roanoke basin. This change could increase the frequency of flooding of farm and forest lands downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam. It would at the same time decrease the duration or length of time any given flood might last.

There are no proposed changes in the lake levels at Lake Gaston or Roanoke Rapids Reservoir compared to existing operations. There would be a gradual lowering of the John H. Kerr Reservoir pool level during the summer. This change at Kerr is intended to partially offset the projected hydropower generation losses due to the change in the proposed releases schedule.

The workshops will be held in Williamston and Halifax, North Carolina and Boydton, Virginia, to explain the proposed action and to ask for your comments. We encourage you to participate in one of three workshops so that we can inform you and gather the most complete information possible to evaluate these actions.

Date, Time, and Location

May 12, Williamston, NC, 7-9 pm:

Senator Bob Martin Agricultural Center
2900 NC Highway 125 South
Williamston, North Carolina 27892

May 13, Halifax, NC, 7-9 pm:

The Halifax Co Agricultural Center Auditorium
359 Ferrell Lane
Halifax, North Carolina 27839

May 14, Boydton, VA, 2-4 pm and 6-8 pm


Kerr Visitors Assistance Center
1930 Mays Chapel Road
Boydton, Virginia 23917

After May 1, 2008, you can obtain more information on the Kerr operation changes being considered at the Corps' John H. Kerr website <http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/jhkerr/index.htm>. If you would like to comment but are unable to attend one of the meetings, you may send us your comments by mail or email to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District
Attention: Mr. Frank Yelverton (CESAW-TS-PE)
Post Office Box 1890
Wilmington, North Carolina, 28402-1890
Email frank.yelverton@usace.army.mil.

If you have submitted comments before on this proposed action and do not have additional comments, there is no need to respond to this letter. All comments previously received or in response to this letter or indicated meetings will be considered during our efforts to develop and evaluate the proposed operation. If you are sending written comments, we need to receive them by June 1, 2008, so that we have adequate time to consider them in our evaluations. If you need additional information, please contact Mr. Yelverton at (910) 251-4640 or by email at the address given.

Sincerely,

 J. E. Pulliam, Jr., Chief of Staff
John E. Pulliam, Jr.
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander